

to be built, governmental processes to be developed, and a new currency to be established. There are also unsettled issues with its neighbor, the Republic of Sudan, such as ending violence and suffering in Darfur, a long-term oil revenue sharing agreement, border demarcation, fair distribution of debts, and establishing the qualifications for citizenship.

Tomorrow, we will celebrate the birth of a new nation. However, with this tremendous event should come a renewed commitment from the world to preserve peace and cultivate a bright and stable future for the South Sudanese people.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH SUDAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the world's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan. On July 9, 2011, after months of preparation, South Sudan will officially declare its independence from Sudan. In January 2011, South Sudan held a referendum on the issue of secession, where 97.5 percent of Southern Sudanese turned out to vote and an overwhelming 98.8 percent voted for separation. Tomorrow, the independence of South Sudan marks the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended 22 years of war between northern and southern Sudan, and the birth of a new country based on the principles of self-determination, freedom, and justice.

However, South Sudan faces numerous challenges that will need to be resolved after its independence. South Sudan and Sudan still have to agree on issues such as revenue sharing, especially oil revenues, border disputes, security agreements, national debt, citizenship, and currency. In addition, South Sudan lacks two critical resources: government infrastructure and personnel, which are crucial to creating a strong and viable government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of South Sudan on achieving their dream of independence, and extend my deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones in the fight for freedom. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to join me in commemorating the struggle and sacrifices of millions of Southern Sudanese, and to work with the international community to ensure that South Sudan becomes a politically and economically stable nation.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIE WATERMILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marie Watermill of Hampton, Iowa on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on June 24, 2011.

Marie was brought into this world on June 24, 1911 and more than 100 years later con-

tinues to live a vibrant life. Aside from her daily regimen of sewing, crocheting, and reading, Marie also stays busy by entertaining and quilting blankets for her 15 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren as she expects three more great-great-grandchildren within the year. Marie also spends her time assisting those that are ill by making lap robes to support the Church of the Living Word's most recent project.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past 100 years. Since Marie's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Marie has lived through 18 United States Presidents and 22 Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Ms. Watermill for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Marie and her family in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chair, American children have already been the victims of the Republicans' inaction and spending cuts, and now the Republicans are specifically targeting the children of military families. The Flake Amendment to H.R. 2219 cuts \$250 million of critical funding for public schools on military installations.

These schools and families are already in dire need of support. Impact aid is provided to these schools as compensation for the federal activities that render them unable to collect property or other taxes to fund these schools. This is one of the oldest education programs administered in the United States, and these schools and families depend on these funds.

The men and women of our armed services make great sacrifices to keep our country safe. They deserve better from this Congress. They do not deserve to have their children's education sacrificed as well. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Flake amendment to cut impact aid.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN ON THEIR DEC- LARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of South Sudan and

their declaration of formal independence on July 9, 2011. Six months ago, the people of Southern Sudan spoke clearly when nearly 99 percent of the voters declared independence from the repressive government in Khartoum. While this is a historic moment for southern Sudan and its people, this nation faces great challenges in the infancy of its sovereignty.

For the Republic of South Sudan to prosper, a number of challenges must be overcome. Foremost, the country must determine questions as fundamental as citizenship rights and the location of borders with neighboring nations. Additionally, Southern Sudan must establish peace and security within its borders in order to sustain meaningful growth. North Sudanese governmental support for attacks on Southern Sudan have killed more than 1,000 civilians, and have displaced hundreds of thousands of men, women and children over the past year and a half. Simply put, these attacks must cease.

In terms of the economy, international agreements regarding Southern Sudan's debts must be negotiated, as well as the development of an infrastructure to allow for the efficient export of oil. However, even in these challenging and uncertain times, this young nation has demonstrated a commitment to improve the lives of its citizens. Recently, we have observed marked increases in commerce and trade, both domestically and internationally, thanks to the government's continued development of modern infrastructure. The ruling government has reached out to opposition groups within Southern Sudan in an honest effort to maintain national unity throughout this momentous process. While there are still hurdles to be overcome, today I recognize and congratulate the Sudanese people for their significant accomplishments in having reached this momentous occasion.

THE FINAL FLIGHT OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM ON JULY 8, 2011

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, today we close another chapter in the history book of manned space flight. Today Americans around the Nation watched the final launch of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, a journey that began 30 years ago with the first flight of Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

For 135 times the Nation has turned their eyes to the State of Florida to watch the solid rocket boosters ignite and lift the Space Shuttle through the bounds of our Earth's atmosphere. Each mission of the Space Shuttles' primary goal was to continue to push the bounds of space exploration. With each mission the United States achieved another milestone of expanding man's frontier in space earning the respect and admiration of the world.

The State of Florida has been the epicenter for manned exploration of space. Over the last 50 years from Gemini, to Apollo, to the Space Shuttles, hundreds of thousands of Floridians have contributed their talents, energy and knowledge to explore space. Some have dedicated their lives to the exploration of space.

Today I would like to recognize the men and women over the last 30 years who worked on